

REGION5 77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

B-19J

DEC 2 0 2002

Robert Lueckel, Forest Supervisor USDA Forest Service Ottawa National Forest E6248 U.S. Highway 2 Ironwood, Michigan 49938

RE: Bond Falls Project Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement,
Ontonagon and Gobebic Counties, Michigan and Wisconsin CEQ # 020485

Dear Mr. Lueckel:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 (U.S. EPA) has reviewed the U.S. Forest Service's (USFS) Supplemental Final Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) for the Bond Falls Project in Ontonagon and Gobebic Counties, Michigan and Vilas County in Wisconsin. Our review is pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act (CAA). The CEQ number for this document is 020485.

The U.S. Forest Service's SDEIS appeared in the Federal Register on September 6, 2002, proposing to introduce Terms and Conditions into the hydropower license issued for the Bond Falls project in order to insure protection of the Ottawa National Forest. The Terms and Conditions related to protection of the National Forest's Resources, including fish and other aquatic biota, wildlife, vegetation, recreation, and aesthetics. Because we rated the SDEIS, "LO-Lack of Objections," and the project has not changed in the FSEIS, we have no further comments on the project, the SFEIS, or the Record of Decision.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Rosalyn Johnson of my staff at 312/353-5692 or send E-mail to johnson.rosalyn@epa.gov.